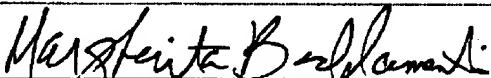


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/899,767
 Applicants : THOMAS E. MALLOUK et al.
 Filed : July 5, 2001
 TC/AU : 1639
 Examiner : Devon R. Byrd

Docket No. : 105557
 Customer No. : 23490

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Communication dated November 12, 2003 applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-16 in view of the following elections of species. Also, a copy of an October 1, 2003 response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment along with a revised listing of claims incorporating the proper status identifier as to the claims as amended in the preliminary amendment is attached hereto. As the present response is within one-month of the mailing of the Official Communication, no extension of time is necessary.

A listing of the claims begins on page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this response.

Request for R consid ration 09/899,767
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